

Application No.: 09/890,588

Docket No.: HHI-031USRCE

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A fluid filter housing, comprising a central component which extends into an interior of the filter housing, said central component being disposable in an operating position by a retaining claw engaging a projection on the filter housing and therein axially retained in the filter housing, said central component being detachable from said projection in a disassembly position such that said central component is nondestructively removable from the filter housing, wherein the central component is mounted rotatably around a longitudinal axis in the filter housing, and a retaining component arranged in a rotationally restricted manner within the filter housing, said retaining component having a radially inner surface that partially surrounds a radially outer surface of the central component, wherein the radially inner surface of the retaining component and the radially outer surface of the central component having matching contours that inhibit rotation of said central component in the operating position, the central component being rotatable into the disassembly position when a clamping force exerted by the retaining component upon the central component is exceeded.
2. (Previously Presented) The filter according to claim 1, wherein the central component and the retaining component (10) comprise interacting polygonal contours.
3. (Withdrawn) A fluid filter, comprising a filter housing, a central, approximately tubular component which extends into the interior of the filter, said central component being disposable in an operating position by engaging a projection located in the filter housing and being permanently retained in the filter housing, said component being disengageable from said projection and nondestructively removable from the filter when disposed in a disassembly position, wherein the central component is retained in a positive manner by a retaining

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component which is screwable onto the filter housing, the retaining component forming the projection.

4. (Withdrawn) A fluid filter according to claim 3, wherein the retaining component (10) comprises a combination component which includes a support body, and multiple functional elements located on the support body.

5. (Withdrawn) A fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional elements comprise one or more screw holes located in a depression accommodating the screw head.

6. (Withdrawn) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a valve body.

7. (Withdrawn) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a clip for fixing the central component.

8. (Withdrawn) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a projection for fixing the central component.

9. (Withdrawn) The fluid filter according to claim 4, wherein the functional element comprises a screw hole for fixing the central component.

10. (Withdrawn) A fluid filter, comprising:  
a filter housing,

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a filter element disposed within the filter housing,

a central component forming a support dome for supporting the filter housing, wherein the central component extends into an interior of the filter housing, said central component being disposable in an operating position by engaging a projection on the filter housing and being securely retained in the filter housing, said central component being detachable from said projection in a disassembly position such that said central component is nondestructively removable from the filter, wherein the central component is mounted rotatably around a longitudinal axis in the filter housing, and

a retaining component arranged in a rotationally restricted manner within the filter housing, said retaining component being arranged to surround and fix the central component by an interference fit so as to inhibit rotation of the central component in the operating position, the central component being rotatable into the disassembly position when the clamping force of the interference fit is exceeded.

11. (Withdrawn) A fluid filter, comprising:

a filter housing, including a cap that configured to screw onto the filter housing,

a central component which extends into an interior of the filter housing, said central component being disposable in an operating position by engaging a projection on the filter housing and being securely retained in the filter housing, said central component being detachable from said projection in a disassembly position such that said central component is nondestructively removable from the filter, wherein the central component is mounted rotatably around a longitudinal axis in the filter housing,

a retaining component arranged in a rotationally restricted manner within the filter housing, said retaining component being arranged to surround and fix the central component by

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an interference fit so as to inhibit rotation of the central component in the operating position, the central component being rotatable into the disassembly position when the clamping force of the interference fit is exceeded.

12. (Withdrawn) A fluid filter, comprising:

a filter housing,

a cap for the filter housing,

a central component which extends into an interior of the filter housing, said central component being disposable in an operating position by engaging a projection on the filter housing and being permanently retained in the filter housing, said central component being detachable from said projection in a disassembly position such that said central component is nondestructively removable from the filter, wherein the central component is mounted rotatably around a longitudinal axis in the filter housing,

a retaining component arranged in a rotationally restricted manner within the filter housing, said retaining component being arranged to surround and fix the central component by an interference fit so as to inhibit rotation in the operating position, the central component being rotatable into the disassembly position when the clamping force of the interference fit is exceeded,

wherein the central component is not fixed within the cap.